

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3266

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 1285

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT GV US

SUBJECT: TOURE AIRS MORE WHIFFS OF PRAGMATISM

1. SUMMARY. DURING NATIONAL COUNCIL OF REVOLUTION SESSION, SEKOU TOURE EVINced FURTHER TOUCHINESS ABOUT HUMAN-RIGHTS CRITICISM ABROAD, WAFTED STILL MORE VITUPERATION TOWARD SENGHOR, AND WARNED AGAINST LAPSES OF VIGILANCE. HOWEVER, UN-CHARACTERISTIC NOTES OF MODERATION WERE ALSO SOUNDED: TOURE IN EFFECT "AMNESTIED" ALL GUINEAN EXILES, URGED THEM TO RETURN, AND CALLED FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT INCLUDING PRIVATE SECTOR. HE AGAIN TOOK THE SOFTER LINE AGAINST ISRAEL EVIDENT IN JUNE 10 SPEECH. GOG SOURCES ARE TOUTING A "NEW REALISM", EMERGING PIECEMEAL, WHICH IS SAID TO LIE BEHIND PRESENT WARMER RELATIONS WITH U.S. HOWEVER, EXILE AMNESTY PROBABLY MEANT MAINLY TO BOLSTER REGIME'S PUBLIC IMAGE SINCE TOURE CERTAINLY AWARE LITTLE LIKELIHOOD EXISTS THAT MANY DIASPORA GUINEANS WILL RETURN WITHOUT TOTAL CHANGE IN GOG'S INTERNAL POLICIES. END SUMMARY.

2. MAIN SURPRISE AT 39TH SESSION OF GUINEAN NATIONAL
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COUNCIL OF REVOLUTION (CNR) JULY 15-18 WAS SEKOU TOURE'S PERSONAL APPEAL TO ALL CATEGORIES OF GUINEAN EXILES IN SENEGAL, MALI, IVORY COAST AND ELSEWHERE TO RETURN TO HOMELAND. EVEN "ANTI-GUINEANS" WELCOME: TOURE SAID REGIME WAS CONFIDENT ENOUGH TO HANDLE TROUBLE MAKERS. WHILE REITERATING GOG'S DETERMINATION TO HOLD FAST TO PDG'S RADICAL SOCIALIST TENETS, TOURE ASSURED RETURNEES

SECURITY OF PERSON, EQUIPMENT, GOODS, AND INVESTMENTS, AND OFFERED TAX AND IMPORT-DUTY CONCESSIONS. FREE USE OF HARD CURRENCY TO BE GUARANTEED BY CENTRAL BANK. EXILES INVITED TO ENGAGE IN "PRIVATE INITIATIVE" AND "PRIVATE ENTERPRISE" IN CERTAIN SECTORS (TRANSPORT, HOTEL AND HOUSING CONSTRUCTION) ALONGSIDE STATE ENTERPRISES, UNDER MINISTRY OF EXCHANGE DOMAIN SO THAT NO "DISCORDANCE" WILL ARISE WITH EXISTING ECONOMIC ORDER.

3. TOURE SAID GOG NOTED ISRAEL HAD CONSISTENTLY ABSTAINED FROM CRITICIZING GUINEA AND THEREFORE GOG NO LONGER WISHED TO "CONFUSE" GOI WITH "CERTAIN ZIONIST ELEMENTS". IN EFFECT SIGNALING ISRAELI STATE'S RIGHT TO EXIST, TOURE REAFFIRMED GOG'S WILLINGNESS TO JOIN "ALL FORCES OF JUSTICE AND PEACE, NOTABLY ARAB STATES", IN QUEST FOR "EQUITABLE AND DURABLE" ARAB-ISRAELI SOLUTION.

4. COMMENT: VIRTUALLY ALL GUINEAN SOURCES SEE EXILE AMNESTY AND MODERATE ISRAEL LINE AS SYMPTONS OF GOG'S "NEW REALISM" OF WHICH PRIMIN BEAVOGUI'S U.S. TRIP IN LATE JUNE WAS MOST OBVIOUS EXAMPLE. EXILE INITIATIVE LETS TOURE HOLD OUT DOMESTICALLY HOPE FOR NEW ECONOMIC UPLIFT AND BURNISHES IMAGE ABROAD VIA MORE CLEMENT HUMAN RIGHTS APPROACH. NEVERTHELESS, ENCOURAGING REFERENCES TO PRIVATE SECTOR, EVEN IN SPECIAL EXILE CONTEXT, ARE FIRST IN SOME YEARS, AND AT MINIMUM CONFIDENTIAL

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EVINCE GOG POSITIVE ATTITUDES TOWARD, INDEED DIRE NEED FOR, FOREIGN INVESTMENT. GOG SOURCES, WHILE PRIVATELY SKEPTICAL THAT MANY EXILES WILL RETURN, INTERPRET SPEECH AS ANOTHER INDICATOR THAT "NEW STAGE" IN REVOLUTION HAS BEGUN (1) TO INJECT AT LEAST SOME PRAGMATISM INTO TOURE'S HERETOFORE DYSFUNCTIONAL DOGMATISM LEST GUINEA'S INTERNAL ECONOMIC MORASS AND POVERTY DEEPEN FURTHER, AND (2) TO HEAD OFF REGIME'S BECOMING MORE OF A PARIAH INTERNATIONALLY. THESE SOURCES POINT TO TOURE'S CNR PHRASE, "POLITICAL RIGIDITY IS FATAL SCLEROSIS OF REVOLUTION," AND FORESEE MORE MOVES TOWARD FLEXIBILITY WITHIN STILL AUTHORITARIAN "SOCIALIST" AND "PROGRESSIVE" FRAMEWORK. MEANWHILE, GUINEANS HOME MAY HAVE HARD TIME UNDERSTANDING WHY "BLACK SHEEP" IN DAKAR OR ABIDJAN ARE BEING OFFERED PRIVILEGES LONG DENIED THEM. MAINLAND

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